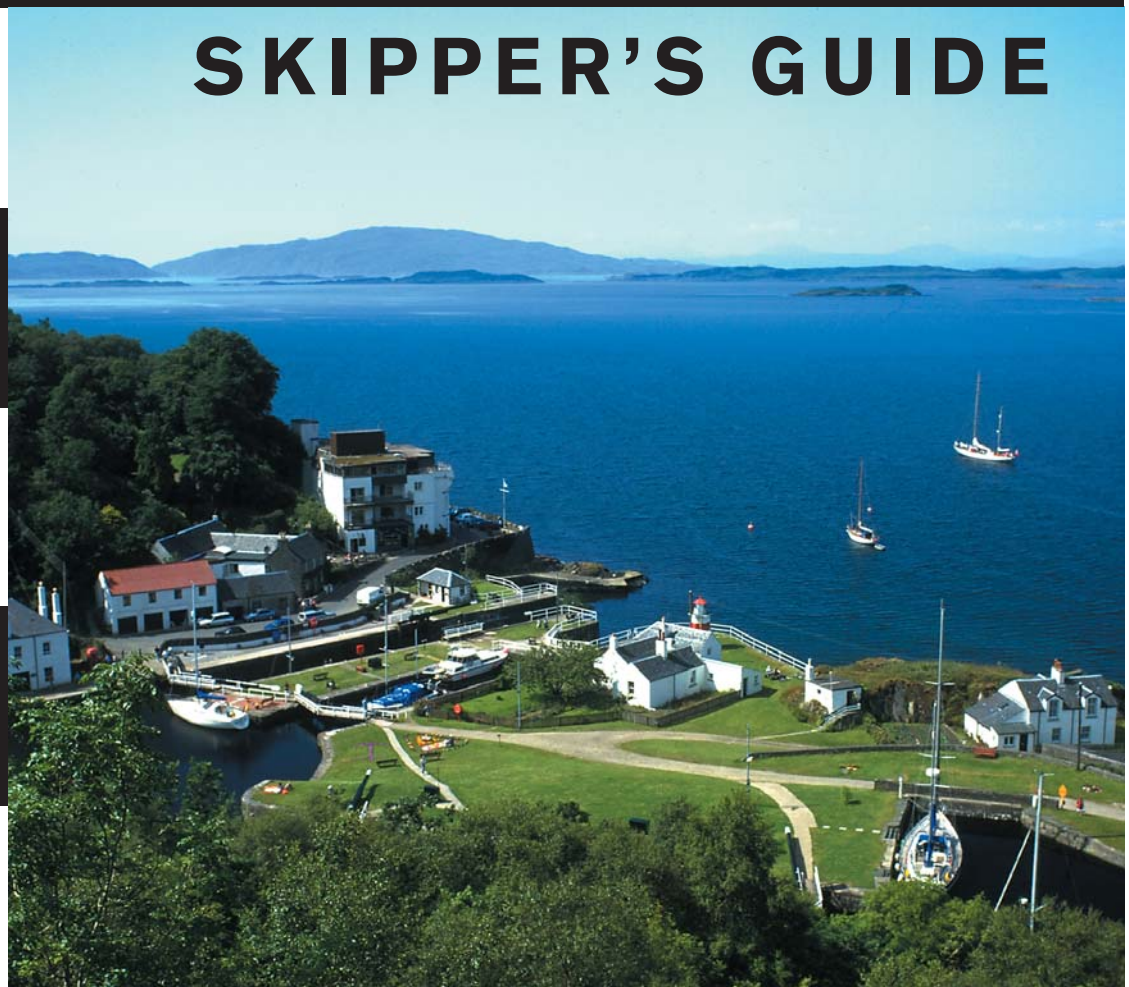
British Waterways Scotland

CRINAN CANAL

SKIPPER'S GUIDE



British Waterways Scotland

Crinan Canal, Pier Square, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8DZ
Tel: 01546 603210. Fax: 01546 603941

Crinan Sea Lock: Tel: 01546 830285
Ardrishaig Sea Lock: Tel: 01546 602458

Caledonian Canal, Seaport Marina, Muirtown Wharf, Inverness IV3 5LS
Tel: 01463 233140. Fax: 01463 710942

Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, Rosebank House, Falkirk FK1 4DS
Tel: 01324 671217. Fax: 01324 671225

British Waterways Scotland, Canal House, Applecross Street, Glasgow G4 9SP
Tel: 0141 332 6936. Fax: 0141 3311688

Website www.scottishcanals.co.uk
E-mail enquiries: Crinan@britishwaterways.co.uk

WELCOME TO THE CRINAN CANAL

The Crinan Canal Team would like to welcome you to the canal. We hope you enjoy your stay with us.

The Crinan Canal was constructed during 1793 -1801 with further improvements made in 1816 and again between 1930 and 1932 when new larger sea locks were constructed.

The Crinan Canal is one of Scotland's most picturesque waterways and is a real treasure, known to sailors the world over for its friendly lock keepers and spectacular surrounding countryside.

There is just so much to see and do, so why not step ashore and enjoy the tranquillity of this remote unspoilt area.

The idyllic still water marina facility at Bellanoch is the ideal base from which to cruise the west coast and also to enjoy the many top quality sailing events which take place through the yachting season.

British Waterways are committed to customer care and should you require any help or advice during your stay with us please do not hesitate to contact the Canal office or any member of staff.

We also welcome comments on our service, or suggestions for improvements to make passage or lockings more enjoyable. Customer comment cards are available from staff on lock flights.

NAVIGATING THE CRINAN CANAL

MAXIMUM CHANNEL DIMENSIONS

26.82 metres (88 feet) long: 6.09 metres (20 feet) beam; 2.89 metres (9 feet 6 inches) channel depth. Maximum mast height 28.95 metres (95 feet) under overhead cables.

Please add 10cm (4 inches) to your normal draught since craft sit lower in the fresh water of the canal than they do in salt water.

OPERATING HOURS

The Crinan Canal operates on a seasonal basis. We are open 7 days per week in peak season, Monday to Saturday during Spring and Autumn, and Monday to Friday during the Winter. Please ask for details of exact operating dates and times, since these may be subject to variation from time to time.

When on passage please allow 30 minutes for last locking before close down to allow staff time to make the flight ready for the evening. The minimum time for a passage is about 5 - 6 hours, but why rush? Relax and enjoy the superb scenery and hospitality.

NAVIGATION INFORMATION

Admiralty charts: Loch Fyne (part) & Ardrishaig 2381; Loch Crinan 2320; Loch Crinan to the Forth of Lorne 2326.

Imray charts: Firth of Clyde C66; Upper Clyde & Loch Fyne 2900; Belfast Lough to Crinan C64; Crinan to Mallaig & Barra C65.

Pilots: Admiralty West Coast of Scotland Pilot (NP66). Clyde Cruising Club Sailing Directions – Firth of Clyde; Kintyre to Ardnamurchan.

Imray Pilot: Clyde to Colonsay.

Almanac: Macmillan Reeds Western Almanac.

CANAL PILOTS

If you are short handed we can arrange for helpers who will assist you on passage.

To arrange assistance please contact sea lock staff who will endeavour to book assistance for you. The pilots are local people, not British Waterways employees, and we would advise at least 24 hours notice to avoid disappointment, particularly in peak season.

LOCKS AND BRIDGES

There are 15 locks and 7 bridges on the Crinan Canal. The Sea Locks & Lock 14 are mechanised and operated for you. Inland locks are self service and require at least one member of your crew on shore to operate.

VHF

Sea locks may be contacted on VHF Radio: Channel 16 / Working 74.

SPEED LIMITS

Please observe the 4 knot speed limit on the canal to avoid bank erosion through excessive wash. Also please slow down when passing moored craft, again to reduce disturbance to others.

The final approach to Crinan between Crinan Bridge and Lock 14 is narrow, with moored craft lying above Lock 14. Please exercise caution while transiting this section of the canal.

USE OF LOCKS AFTER CLOSEDOWN

Do not use the canal locks after closedown. This is when water levels are adjusted for the following day and any unauthorised locking may cause flooding or water loss.

CILL MARKERS

To avoid possible contact with the lock cill please ensure your vessel does not pass the cill marker on the lock wall and remains clear of lock gangways (area AB on Diagram) during lock operations. If you are in any doubt please ask lock staff for advice.

ADVICE, RULES AND REGULATIONS

USE OF LOCKS AFTER CLOSEDOWN

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CANAL LICENCES

All craft must display a current leisure licence. Various terms are available, from passage through to annual. Short term licences include all lockings, passages and berthing, provided these are made within normal operating hours. Long term berth holders will also require a mooring permit. The licence fee is calculated on a charge per metre basis depending on the length of term purchased. A price list is available at the sea locks, or from the canal office.

In order to keep our charges as low as possible by reducing administration costs, we would ask that all licence fees are paid on entry to the canal.

BOAT SAFETY

All users of the canal must hold insurance for £1m third party liability.

All those berthing within the canal system for periods in excess of 30 days must obtain a Boat Safety Certificate. Owners using the canal for less than 30 days will be subject to spot checks to ensure their craft meet the standards of safety required under the scheme. Checks will cover the gas system, electrical system, and will be visual or in the case of the gas test carried out by use of a leak detector .

BASIC EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED

1. Good ropes, bow and stern, of sufficient length (12 metres) to reach the bottom of the lock chamber.
2. Adequate fenders to protect your topsides. 3 or 4 per side should suffice. Jumbo fenders are available for hire from the sea locks. A good tip is to lace a canvas sheet between the hull and the fender to avoid scuff marks.
3. It is advisable to wear life jackets, especially in the case of children.

PORT WASTE MANAGEMENT

British Waterways have produced Port Waste Management Plans which are now agreed with the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) and must be complied with at all times. It is an offence to discharge oil or bilge water into the canal or its adjacent waters, and any contravention of this ruling will result in notification to the MCA and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

Emergency discharge facilities can be arranged through specialist contractors at additional cost.

LAST LOCKING TIMES

Please remember to allow 30 minutes before closedown to complete lockings, in particular at sea locks.

OIL DISPOSAL

Oil disposal can be arranged by contacting the Canal Office.

RADAR

Please ensure radar scanners are switched off while craft are within or approaching locks

LITTER

Refuse should be disposed of in the skips located at Ardrishaig, Cairnbaan, Bellanoch Bay and Crinan. Please help us to keep the Crinan Canal tidy by disposing of rubbish in a thoughtful manner. Remember, plastic bags thrown overboard could block your water intake, or foul the prop of your craft.

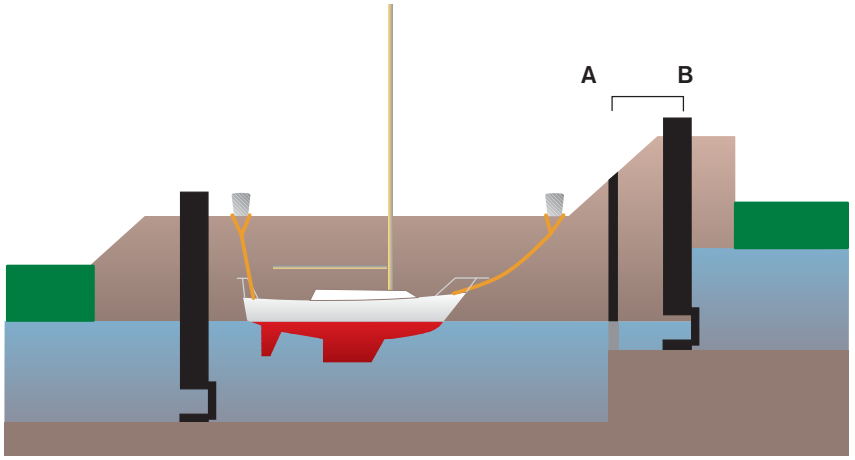
PETS

While pets are welcome, it would be much appreciated if owners could take a little care and prevent animals fouling the banks. Particular care should be taken at main lock flights and mown areas as young children often play in these locations.

SWIMMING

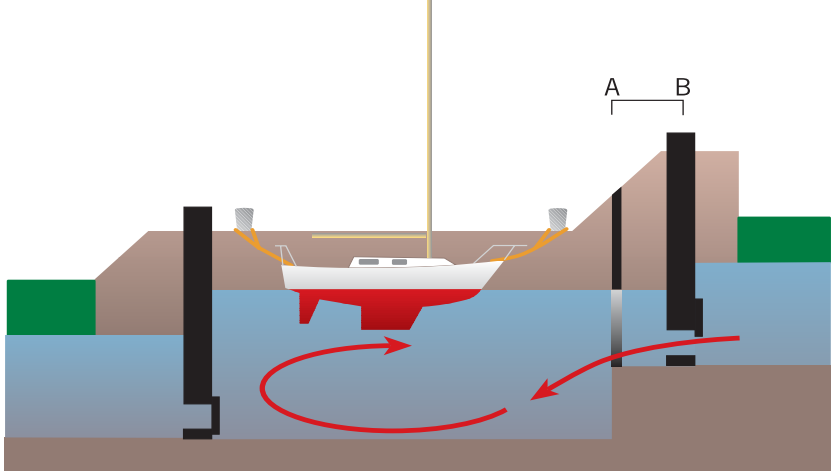
The canal may look inviting, but please do not swim in it. This is dangerous, as there may be an underwater obstruction, and the banks are very steep.

Information correct at print date: April 2003



LOCKING UPWARDS

1. Make sure that the top gates and sluices are closed.
2. If the lock is full, empty it by raising the bottom sluices, first checking to see if a boat is approaching the lock in a downward direction, and if so please wait until it has locked through.
3. Open the bottom gates by leaning on the swing bar.
The gate will only open once the water levels have equalised so apply steady pressure until you feel the gate move. Once the gates are open the craft may enter the lock, and if on its own in the lock, should stay as far back as possible to minimise the effect of turbulence.
4. Secure the craft by both bow and stern lines to the bollards provided.
It is not advisable for the shore crew to hold the warp, since loads can be considerable.
5. Close the bottom gates and sluices.
6. Only when you are satisfied that all craft are secure commence to flood the lock by raising the top sluices. Only open the sluices about 2" (5cm) at a time to keep turbulence in the lock to a minimum, starting with the sluice on the same side as a single moored craft, or the smallest craft. Continue to raise the sluices a little at a time as the water rises, but if the turbulence is too great lower the sluice a little. When the lock is full ensure the sluices are fully open, to make it easier to open the top gates. 7. Open the lock gates and sail out.
8. Please leave a crew member to close the gates and sluices. This important part of the operation ensures that the lock chambers are ready for the next customer, though you may leave gates open for craft which are approaching in the opposite direction if they are near at hand.

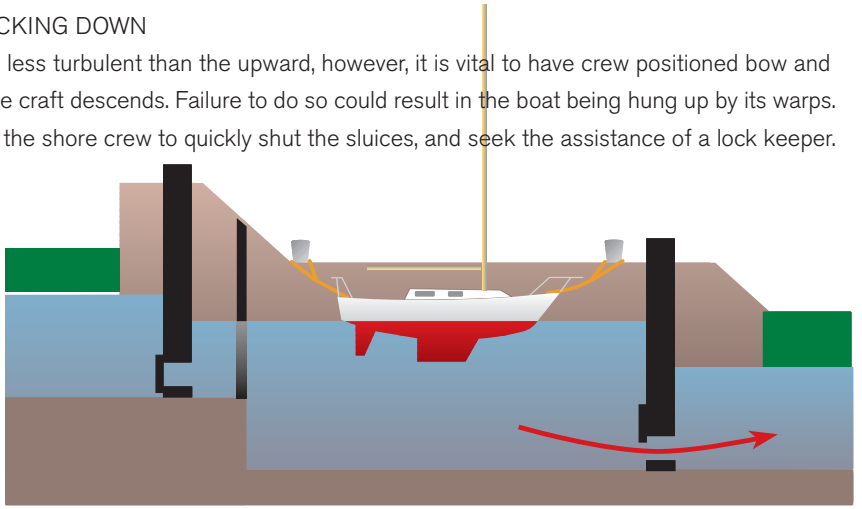


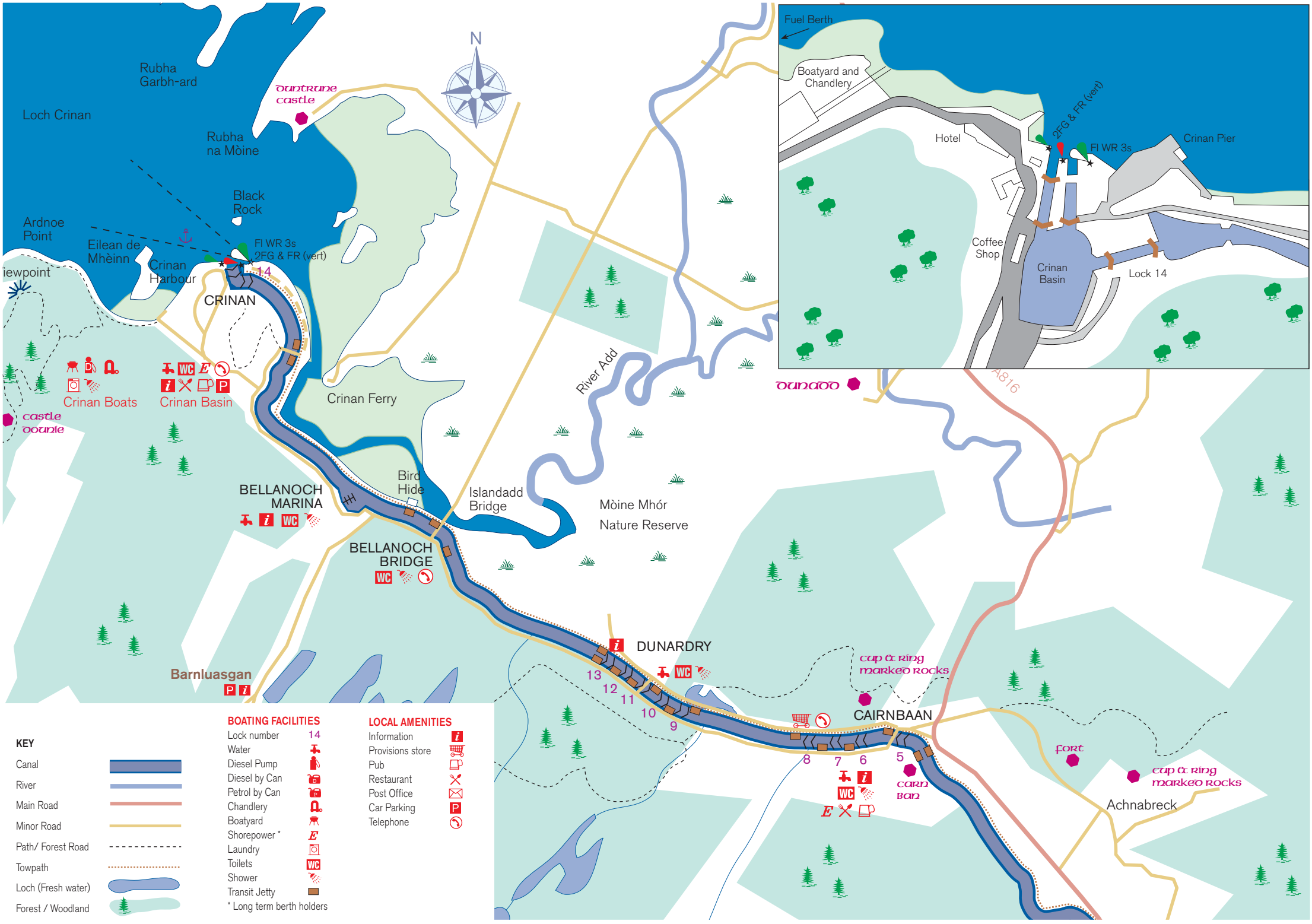
LOCKING DOWNWARDS

1. Ensure that the bottom gates and sluices are closed. If the lock is empty fill it by opening the top sluices. (If there is a craft approaching which will use the lock in an upward direction, allow it to do so).
2. When the lock chamber is full open the gates by leaning on the swing bar. The gate will only move once the water pressure has equalised so, leaving the sluices open, apply a steady pressure until you feel the gate move.
3. The craft may now enter the lock.
4. Secure the craft by bow and stern warps using the bollards provided.
5. Close the top gates and lower the sluices.
6. Open the bottom sluices only after you are sure the boats are secure and crews ready. The sluices should be raised slowly to maximum, keeping an eye on the boats in the lock. If any are experiencing difficulty close the sluices.
7. Open the bottom gates and exit the lock.
8. Please remember to close both gates and sluices after the craft leave the lock.

SKIPPERS: NOTE WHEN LOCKING DOWN

The downward locking is much less turbulent than the upward, however, it is vital to have crew positioned bow and stern to pay off the warps as the craft descends. Failure to do so could result in the boat being hung up by its warps. If this does occur you must tell the shore crew to quickly shut the sluices, and seek the assistance of a lock keeper.





KEY

- Canal
- River
- Main Road
- Minor Road
- Path/ Forest Road
- Towpath
- Loch (Fresh water)
- Forest / Woodland

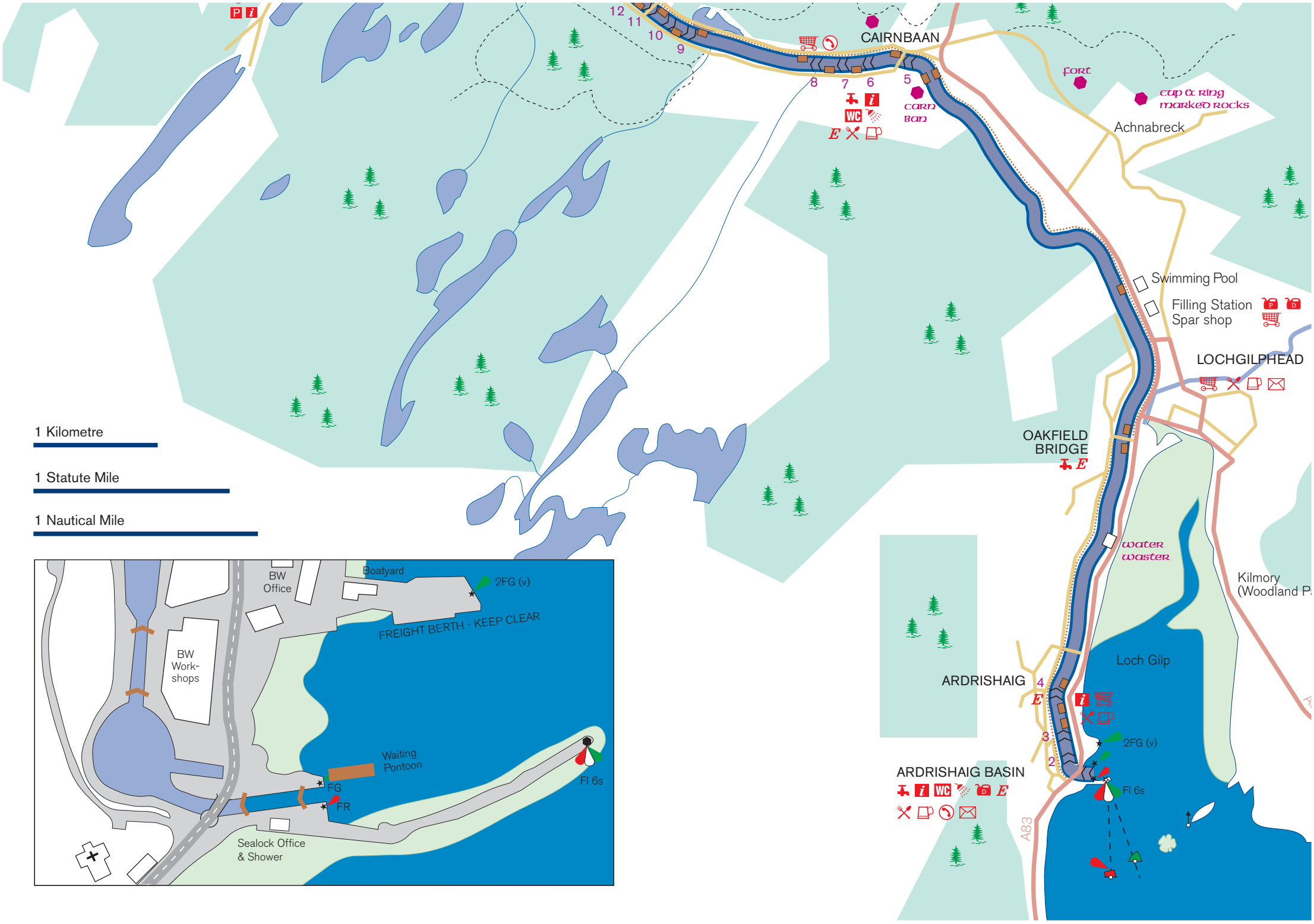
BOATING FACILITIES

- Lock number 14
- Water
- Diesel Pump
- Diesel by Can
- Petrol by Can
- Chandlery
- Boatyard
- Shorepower *
- Laundry
- Toilets
- Shower
- Transit Jetty

* Long term berth holders

LOCAL AMENITIES

- Information
- Provisions store
- Pub
- Restaurant
- Post Office
- Car Parking
- Telephone


12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
CAIRNBAAN
Fort
Cup & Ring Marked Rocks
Achnabreck
Cairn Ban
Swimming Pool
Filling Station
Spar shop
LOCHGILPHEAD
OAKFIELD BRIDGE
Water Waster
Kilmory (Woodland P
Loch Gilp
ARDRISHAIG
4
3
2
2FG (v)
Fl 6s
ARDRISHAIG BASIN
A83
1 Kilometre
1 Statute Mile
1 Nautical Mile
BW Office
Boatyard
2FG (v)
FREIGHT BERTH - KEEP CLEAR
BW Work-shops
Waiting Pontoon
FG
FR
Fl 6s
Sealock Office & Shower

PLACES OF INTEREST

This part of Scotland has been inhabited for at least 5,000 years, since the first hunter-gatherers followed the retreating ice northwards, and settled in this fertile area.
Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, pre-Christian, Medieval, and later eras are represented by monuments and buildings, and the Canal is itself a listed Monument.

Kilmartin House Museum

Kilmartin, 6 miles north of Cairnbaan on the A816.
The concentration and diversity of ancient monuments in Kilmartin Glen distinguish the area as Scotland's richest prehistoric landscape. This independent museum displays local artefacts and interactive exhibits. Audio-visual experience, bookshop, unique wildfood café. Open every day.
01546 510278 www.kilmartin.org

Dunadd – Ancient Capital of Dalriada

Hill Fort, 2 miles north of Cairnbaan on the A816.
The curious carvings near the summit are popularly associated with the inauguration of Scotland's first kings. The Scotti migrated here from Ireland around 500AD, establishing the ancient kingdom of Dalriada, this stronghold, and the Scottish royal succession.

Moine Mhor Nature Reserve

The Great Moss, north of the Crinan Canal, between Dunardry and Crinan.
One of the last expanses of raised mire in Scotland, this estuarine environment supports a rich and varied ecosystem, including some rare plants and animals.

Achnabreck Cup & Ring Marked Rocks

1 mile east of the canal at Cairnbaan, sign-posted off the A816.
These outcrops of bedrock together represent the largest expanse of prehistoric rock-art in Scotland. Hollow cup-marks are often surrounded by rings, and some have a gutter extending from the centre. There are other motifs, including spirals, petals and stars.

Cairnbaan – Marked Rocks, Dun Chuain & Carn Ban

0.75 mile north of the canal, sign-posted at Cairnbaan Hotel.
Further examples of prehistoric rock carvings here include a double cup surrounded by a single ring, and irregular grooving. The remains of a small fortified structure or dun can be seen 250 yards to the east.

Cairn, on the south bank of the canal at Lock 5

This Bronze Age burial monument exhibits a cup mark and an unusual abstract design on its capstone. A decorated slab from this site is preserved in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Ardrishaig Water Waster

Eastern canal bank at Ardrishaig, between Lock 4 and Oakfield Bridge.
Completed in 1895, this unique system maintains a safe water level in the canal. Excess water fills a bucket on one end of a rocker mechanism, the weight of which unseats a plug attached to the other end, discharging water into the sea.

Forest Walks and Cycle Trails

The forest and woodland walks at Crinan, Dunardry, Cairnbaan and Achnabreck are indicated on the canal map. There are also cycle trails in the forest south of the canal, and Barnluasgan Interpretation Centre (1 mile S of Bellanoch on the Tayvallich road) offers information on the forest, and the history and wildlife of Knapdale.
Forest Enterprise publish useful leaflets on all these walks and trails, which are usually available from the Crinan Canal offices.

Cycle Hire

Crinan Cycles, 34 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead. Tel: 01546 603511 are open Mon-Sat 9:30am to 5:30pm, closed Sun. They will deliver and collect cycles from locations along the canal by prior arrangement.

Bridge House Hotel

This conveniently situated hotel and restaurant is located in the former canal manager's residence, overlooking Lock 2 and Ardrishaig Basin. Tel: 01546 606379.

FACILITIES AND INFORMATION

FUEL

Diesel may be purchased in small quantities from Canal Basin Garage located near Ardrishaig Basin, or in larger amounts from Crinan Boats. Petrol may be purchased in small volumes from garages in Lochgilphead. Berth at Oakfield Bridge or opposite the garage beside the swimming pool (see map).

SHORE POWER

Limited shore power is available at key points along the canal, mainly for use by long term customers. Please contact the Canal Office regarding availability and charges for power.

SHOWERS

Toilets and showers are available free of charge to licence holders, at various locations (see below). Those at Pier Square are in the gable of the building on the right hand side of the square, opposite the white painted Waterways' Workshop. Further information can be obtained from canal staff. There is also a toilet at Crinan (operated by Argyll & Bute Council), by the road above the Basin.

British Waterways plans to provide showers at Crinan Basin and is working to achieve this. In the meantime showers can be found at Crinan Boats.

Please help us to maintain a pleasant environment by making use of shore facilities and not using sea toilets whilst your vessel is in the canal.

DRINKING WATER

Water points are located at Ardrishaig Basin, Oakfield, Cairnbaan, Dunardry, and Crinan (above Lock 14 and around the Basin). Please do not remove water hoses and after use coil neatly.

If taking on water at Crinan Basin please do not leave your vessel unattended on the berth outside the Coffee Shop, as this may prevent others from using this facility.

LONGER TERM BERTHING

Long Term (Reserved) Berths are located in Bellanoch Bay, and at Crinan and Ardrishaig in the disused Sea Locks. The Pontoons and Moorings in Bellanoch Bay are all reserved, so do not berth at these locations without booking. Should you wish to take advantage of these facilities please contact the Canal Office for advice, or view our moorings section on www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

PUMP OUT

Unfortunately pump out facilities are not available.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Doctor: 01546 602921 Police: 01546 602222

Hospital: 01546 602323 Ambulance: 01546 602387

Coastguard – Clyde: 01475 729988

Crinan Canal Office: 01546 603210 (Monday-Friday) & 01546 603797

Crinan Sea Lock: 01546 830285 Ardrishaig Sea Lock: 01546 602458

Freephone number, for emergency use only: 0800 47 999 44.

BOATYARDS

Ardrishaig Boatyard, Pier Square. Repairs and a small stock of chandlery. Tel: 01546 603280.

Crinan Boats (see map). Repairs, chandlery, fuel, toilets, showers and laundry. Tel: 01546 83023

FACILITIES AND PASSAGE TIMES [Times are approximate, to nearest hour]	Lock 1	Ardrishaig Basin	Lock 2	Lock 3	Lock 4 Bridge	Oakfield Bridge	Lock 5 Bridge	Lock 6	Lock 7	Lock 8	Lock 9	Lock 10	Lock 11 Bridge	Lock 12	Lock 13	Bellanoch Bridge	Bellanoch Marina	Crinan Bridge	Lock 14	Crinan Basin
Water	✓	✓				✓	✓						✓				✓		✓	✓
Refuse		✓					✓										✓			✓
Toilet		✓					✓						✓			✓	✓			✓
Shower	✓	✓					✓						✓			✓	✓			
Transit Jetty		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Long term Berths		✓			✓	✓	✓										✓		✓	✓
Telephone		✓								✓						✓				✓
Information Board		✓			✓		✓								✓		✓		✓	
Shore Power Long Term		✓			✓	✓	✓										✓		✓	✓
Shops Nearby		✓			✓	✓				✓										
Hotel Nearby		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓													✓
Boatyard		✓																		✓
Passage times:																				
To Crinan	8						6				4			2				1		
To Ardrishaig			1				2				4			6					8	